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In the Claims:

21. (Previously Presented)      A flashlight comprising:
- a lamp;
  - a power storage element;
  - a switch;
  - an electronic controller connected to each of the power storage element, the lamp, and the switch;
  - the controller operable in response to an electrical signal from the switch to provide momentary illumination of the lamp during an application of a first degree of force in a selected direction, and to cease illumination of the lamp in response to cessation of the force; and
  - the controller operable to provide sustained illumination of the lamp in response to application of a greater second degree of force in the selected direction, and to maintain illumination of the lamp in response to cessation of the force.
22. (Previously Presented)      The flashlight of claim 21 wherein the controller is operable while providing sustained illumination after cessation of the force to cease illumination in response to a second application of force.
23. (Cancelled)      ~~The flashlight of claim 21 wherein the switch includes a plurality of contacts, at least one of which having an associated resistor connected to present a net resistance to the controller based on the degree of force applied to the switch.~~
24. (Previously Presented)      The flashlight of claim 21 wherein the flashlight includes a tail cap screwed tightly to the flashlight body during normal operation.
25. (Previously Presented)      The flashlight of claim 21 wherein the flashlight includes a tail cap and the switch is mounted on the tailcap.

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26. (Previously Presented) The flashlight of claim 21 wherein the switch responds to the application of different amounts of force by different displacement amounts.
27. (Previously Presented) The flashlight of claim 21 wherein the switch responds to the application of different amounts of force without moving.
28. (Previously Presented) The flashlight of claim 21 wherein the switch includes a tactile feedback mechanism to indicate when the second degree of force has been applied.
29. (Previously Presented) The flashlight of claim 21 wherein the controller is operable in response to application of a third degree of force greater than the second degree of force to provide illumination of the lamp at a greater illumination level than the illumination level provided by application of the second degree of force.
30. (Previously Presented) The flashlight of claim 29 wherein the controller is operable to maintain illumination of the lamp in response to cessation of the third degree of force.
31. (Previously Presented) The flashlight of claim 29 wherein the controller is operable to provide sustained illumination at the greater illumination level only in response to application of a third degree of force for more than a pre-selected duration.
32. (Previously Presented) The flashlight of claim 29 wherein the greater illumination level is a maximum illumination level.
33. (Previously Presented) The flashlight of claim 29 wherein the controller is operable to provide the greater illumination level only after a selected duration of pressure on the switch.

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34. (Currently amended) The flashlight of claim 29 wherein when the greater illumination level is provided, the controller is operable to cease illumination only in response to a subsequent application of the third degree of force.

35. (Previously Presented) The flashlight of claim 21 wherein the illumination is provided at a preselected dim level less than the maximum illumination capability of the flashlight.

36. (New) A flashlight comprising:

a lamp;

a power storage element;

a switch;

an electronic controller connected to each of the power storage element, the lamp, and the switch;

the controller operable in response to an electrical signal from the switch to provide momentary illumination of the lamp during an application of a first degree of force in a selected direction, and to cease illumination of the lamp in response to cessation of the force;

the controller operable to provide sustained illumination of the lamp in response to application of a greater second degree of force in the selected direction, and to maintain illumination of the lamp in response to cessation of the force; and

wherein the switch includes a plurality of contacts, at least one of which having an associated resistor connected to present a net resistance to the controller based on the degree of force applied to the switch.

37. (New) The flashlight of claim 36 wherein the controller is operable while providing sustained illumination after cessation of the force to cease illumination in response to a second application of force.

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38. (New) The flashlight of claim 36 wherein the flashlight includes a tail cap screwed tightly to the flashlight body during normal operation.
39. (New) The flashlight of claim 36 wherein the flashlight includes a tail cap and the switch is mounted on the tailcap.
40. (New) The flashlight of claim 36 wherein the switch responds to the application of different amounts of force by different displacement amounts.
41. (New) The flashlight of claim 36 wherein the controller is operable in response to application of a third degree of force greater than the second degree of force to provide illumination of the lamp at a greater illumination level than the illumination level provided by application of the second degree of force.